

7 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: All NIOs and Office Directors
FROM : Presidential Briefing Coordinator
SUBJECT : Presidential Briefing Topics for
13 December 1977

1. The following topics were briefed 6 December 1977.

- A. SIGINT Mix
- B. Anti-Satellite
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Middle East Update

2. The following subjects are nominated for the Presidential Briefing on 13 December 1977:

- A. Poland
- B. Soviet Oil Production Estimates
- C. [redacted]
- D. Covert Communications
- E. Rhodesia's Role in Zaire's Transport and Trade
- F. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- G. Arab Aid to Egypt

3. The following subjects are in various states of preparation for future Presidential Briefings. Responsible officer is shown in parenthesis. Planned dates are shown, if known:

A. French Foreign Policy (NIO/WE)	20 December
B. Nuclear Issues in Countries the President will visit (NIO/NP)	20 December
C. Estimating Soviet Manpower (OSR)	early January
D. Mobile Missile Deployment in USSR (OSR)	(after 11-3/8)
E. Soviet Map Distortions (OGCR)	20 December
F. Tactical Air Balance In Central Europe (OSR)	early January
G. NIE 11-3/8 (NIO/SP)	early January
H. Sino/Soviet Dispute (NIO/China)	mid/late January
I. Chinese Shopping for Western Technology (NIO/China)	20 December
J. Profile of the Arab Rejection Front (NIO/NESA)	20 December
K. Counterintelligence (DDO)	early January

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4. The following additional topics have been proposed as possible future subjects for Presidential Briefings. These topics have not yet been approved by Dr. Bowie. When he has approved a topic, the responsible officer will be asked to provide an outline for the DCI's approval. Preparation of an actual draft should not start until a DCI approved outline has been returned:

- A. Telemetry
- B. North Korean Defense Production
- C. US Research Capability On The USSR
- D. Reduced Oil Production Impact on World Economy
- E. Egypt 1978 late Jan/early Feb.
- F. Soviets and Cubans ZIPRA
- G. Worldwide Nuclear Weapons Developments relating to CIB.
- H. Monitoring CW Ban
- I. Dollar Costing Soviet Forces

5. The following topics were cut during the 7 December meeting of Presidential Briefing Review Committee for the reasons indicated:

- A. Kyshtym accident (not timely in late Dec-Jan).
- B. Trends in Arm Sales (too similar to topic covered in November)
- C. Jamaican PM (more appropriate to memo report)
- D. West Europe Aircraft Development (more appropriate to NID feature)

6. It is requested that the D/OGCR, D/OWI, NIO/SP, NIO/USSR, and NIO/EAP each submit a proposed briefing topic with a brief note on timing considerations by COB Tuesday, 13 December 1977 to the Presidential Briefing Coordinator in 7D61. Topics would probably be used in January. The following week DIR/SR, DIR/IA, NIO/Econ, NIO/WE, and NIO/China are requested to submit nominees for topics in late January or early February. All NIOs and Office Directors are encouraged to submit proposed briefing topics at any time.



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CHINESE SHOPPING FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS

1. Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade Li Chiang is now in Europe investigating some high technology items including the British built Harrier jet.
 - a. Should the Chinese decide to buy sophisticated European technology or weapons, the US will be faced with the question of approval of the sale under COCOM guidelines.
 - b. The US will also be keenly interested in the Soviet reaction to any approved sale.
2. Broad interests shown in recent years reflects technology lags in wide range of areas, military and civilian.
 - a. Disruptions in Chinese economic and military development in the last ten - fifteen years in part account for the technological lag.
 - b. Interest in purchases shown since 1973 but political dispute together with balance of payments deficit in 73-75 delayed possible purchases.
3. Technology with civilian applications that China seems interested in:

Advanced manufacturing technology in petrochemical, metallurgical, electronics and extractive industries. Some evidence of interest in nuclear reprocessing technology.
4. Military Technology Weapons:
 - a. Range of interest also reflects current indecision over specific course of purchases.
 - b. Anti-tank weapons, anti-aircraft weapons, ASW technology, missile tracking equipment, radar systems, and aircraft.

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- c. Chinese strategy of buying still uncertain, buy whole systems or prototypes and production technology for domestic manufacture.

5. Potential/Past Sources

- a. Japan - China's #1 trading partner, principally in civilian goods.
- b. West Europe - diplomatic contacts cultivate potential suppliers of military goods in particular.
- c. U.S. - where technological advantage over other sources clear. Also principally a civilian supplier.

6. Inhibiting factors

- a. High cost
 - 1. Balance of payments possible worry in future.
 - 2. Conservative credit policy.
- b. Domestic engineering, scientific and manufacturing skills possibly not adequate to absorb most sophisticated technology.
- c. COCOM restrictions inhibit some sales.
- d. Chinese decision making process slow and politically difficult.
- e. Ideology of self-reliance.
- f. Soviet criticism/reaction to possible military sales.

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